

**Testimony in Support of HB 5707-Proper Dog Sheltering  
Environment Committee, March 20, 2015**

**Barbara Rudnick  
East Berlin**

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

As a constituent, I urge you to support and joint favorably report HB 5707, the Proper Dog Sheltering Bill.

This bill is very important to me because I have seen many dogs over the years who were left outside everyday in the freezing rain, snow and extreme cold. Although I have contacted ACO's regarding several dogs, in speaking with them they stated that they were limited in what they could do because the type of shelter required left much to interpretation and unfortunately many owners felt a wooden dog house was sufficient. This February was a perfect example of why this bill is so very necessary. In a perfect world no dog would be left outside and in stead would be inside with a loving family and a warm bed. Unfortunately it is not a perfect world, so for those poor dogs with irresponsible owners who lack compassion I ask you to please support this bill which will at least improve the conditions of shelters for these poor dogs in hopes of improving the quality of their lives and assist our ACO's with enforcement.

I also request that you support this bill which would allow dogs and cats that have been used for research to be offered to rescue organizations prior to euthanizing. I understand that many individuals believe if we can advance the quality of products or procedures for mankind it makes research on cats and dogs acceptable. I do not believe it does, but unfortunately that is not the text of this bill, so I ask that whatever time they may have after we have abused them that we find some compassion in our hearts. Please allow them to live a comfortable life in hopes that they find someone to provide them a home with everything they should have been provided since birth. For years I have read many articles and watched many video's, most bringing me to tears on what we do to these poor creatures. I will never understand what kind of person is capable of this work during the day in the name of science and then go home to their family. I wonder do they have a cat or a dog? I pray someday we will realize that there are other means for us to test products, procedures, drugs etc. without the use of animals, but until that day I ask that the committee please support this very important bill that will allow these poor cats and dogs whatever time they have left to run in the grass, play with a toy, sleep in a warm bed and be loved. Please do not let them die without this opportunity.

You have the power with this bill to make such a difference in the lives of so many cats and dogs, please make Connecticut a state to be proud of when it comes to the way we care for our animals.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to submit testimony and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Respectfully,  
Barbara Rudnick

